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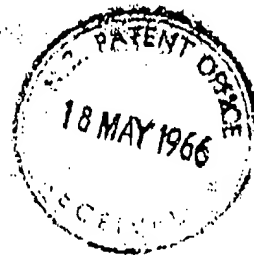
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PATENTS FORM NO.4PATENTS ACT 1953
PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

"IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO PLASTIC BAGS FOR THE PACKAGING OF
PERISHABLE GOODS"

I, PETER JOHN WAKELIN, of Prosser Street, Porirua
New Zealand, a British subject, do hereby declare this
invention to be described in the following statement:

140846



PATENT FORM NO. 5

PATENT ACT 1953

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

After provisional
No. 140846
date 19th February 1965.

IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO PLASTIC BAGS FOR THE PACKAGING OF
PERISHABLE GOODS.

I, PETER JOHN WAKELIN, a British subject and New Zealand citizen, of Prosser Street, Porirua, New Zealand, hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:-

This invention relates to plastic bags or containers constructed from heat-sealable sheet material, such as regenerated-cellulose or the like which has a coating or lamination of polythene or the like, for the packaging especially of frankfurts and like perishable goods, said bags or containers being adapted to be partially evacuated after packaging of the frankfurts or the like, and the open end of the bag or container then heat-sealed to enclose the frankfurts or the like and complete the packaging.

Bags or containers of this kind are known, and, in order to facilitate the opening of the bag or container for insertion of the frankfurts or the like therein by a packer and thereby improve the packing rate, it has been proposed to provide the bag or container with a flap-section at the open end. Due to the nature of the material from which the pack is fabricated, it has been found, however, that the flap curls or rolls, which has the effect of closing the bag opening and interfering with the rapid opening of the bag or container by a packer. The present invention provides a pouch-like bag of the kind indicated and in which no curling or rolling of a flap-section can occur, whereby opening of the bag for insertion of the frankfurts or the like therein is facilitated and an advantage gained in packing rate.

According to the invention there is provided a plastic bag or container suitable for the packaging of perishable goods such as a bundle of frankfurts or other articles of food, under partial vacuum, said bag or container being constructed from heat-sealable sheet material and being fabricated so as to have a back panel and a front panel, the sides and bottom marginal portions of which are heat-sealed together, and the back panel extending at an open or packing end of the bag or container.

into a flap-section which is folded over and heat-sealed to itself so that the inner edge of said flap-section is adjacent the top edge of the front panel to form the opening at said open or packing end of the bag or container and provide a non-curling or non-rolling section at said open or packing end.

Bags or containers in accordance with the invention are conveniently fabricated from regenerated-cellulose sheet having a coating or lamination of polythene or the like for heat-sealing of the back and front panels and the flap-section as specified.

In a preferred arrangement, the bag or container of the invention is fabricated from a single or continuous section of sheet material, rather than from separate front and back panel sections, said single sheet of material being folded so as to form the front and back panels, then heat-sealed at the sides and bottom marginal portions, the fold line being so selected that the front panel is substantially shorter in length than the back panel, so that the flap-section is formed at the top of the article. After heat-sealing the sides and bottom marginal portions as indicated, the flap-section is then folded and heat-sealed to itself so that the inner edge of said flap-section is adjacent the top edge of said front panel.

The invention will be better understood by referring to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, and in which:

Fig 1 is a perspective view of a bag or container in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken at line II - II of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken at lines III - III of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view as seen in Fig. 3;

Referring, now, to the drawings, there is shown a bag or package in accordance with the invention, fabricated from a single sheet of heat-sealable material, preferably regenerated cellulose with a coating or lamination of polythene, the length of sheet material having been folded across the width at fold-line 1, thus forming front panel 2 and back panel 3 of the bag or container, the length of said back panel 3 being substantially more than the length of front panel 2. The side marginal portions 4 and the bottom marginal portion 5 are then heat-sealed together, by conventional means.

The length of the back panel 3 is such that it extends, at the open or packing end of the bag or container, into a flap-section 6, which is folded over and heat-sealed to itself so that the inner edge 7 of said flap-section is adjacent the top edge 8 of said front panel 2, the heat-sealed portion being indicated at 9. In this way, an opening 10 is formed at said open or packing end of the bag or container for the purpose of packing goods therein, and a non-curling or non-rolling section 9 is provided to facilitate packaging of such goods, as described.

Further, in a preferred form of this invention the sealing on the side marginal portions 4 of the bag or container is splayed outwards at 4a towards the opening 10 so that the opening 10 to the bag or container is tapered inwardly for a short length along the sealing at the side marginal portions 4 a of the bag or container so that the placing of goods in

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the bag or container is facilitated. Further also, the sealing at the side marginal portions 4 is carried beyond the actual opening 10 at 4b to ensure a sealing at the ends of the opening 10 and on the outer side edges of the bag or container and adjacent to the splaying back portion of the sealing strip on each side thereof. Thus, the splaying back of the sealing strip to form the tapered opening 10 to the bag or container is on each side of the opening 10 to the bag or container.

Bags or containers in accordance with the invention can be more easily handled and rapidly opened than prior bags of this kind for insertion of goods therein, due to the thickening and strengthening of the flap-section by folding over and heat-sealing said section as indicated, the thickened and strengthened flap-section being more readily fingered by a packer in the course of opening the bag for packing of the goods, and the flap-section having such a degree of thickening and strengthening as to overcome the natural tendency of a single layer of the sheet material to curl or roll, as in prior bags of this kind.

After insertion of frankfurts or the like in the bag of the invention, said bag may be partially evacuated and the open end then heat-sealed according to conventional practice, to enclose the frankfurts or other articles of food and complete the packaging. Said bags may also be flushed with nitrogen or other inert gas, prior to heat-sealing of the goods therein, in order to remove air from the package, according to conventional practice.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:-

1. A plastic bag or container suitable for the packaging of perishable goods such as a bundle of frankfurts or other articles of food, under partial vacuum, said bag or container being constructed from heat-sealable sheet material and being fabricated so as to have a back panel and a front panel, the sides and bottom marginal portions of which are heat-sealed together, and the back panel extending at an open or packing end of the bag or container, into a flap-section which is folded over and heat-sealed to itself so that the inner edge of said flap-section is adjacent the top edge of the front panel to form the opening at said open or packing end of the bag or container and provide a non-curling or non-rolling section at said open or packing end.
2. A bag or container according to claim 1, fabricated from a single or continuous section of sheet material, said single sheet of material being folded so as to form the front and back panels, then heat-sealed at the sides and bottom marginal portions, the fold line being so selected that the front panel is substantially shorter in length than the back panel so that the flap-section is formed at the top of the article, said flap-section then being folded and heat-sealed to itself so that the inner edge of said flap-section is adjacent the top edge of said front panel.
3. A bag or container according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the heat-sealable sheet material is regenerated-cellulose sheet having a coating or lamination of polythene or the like for heat-sealing of the back and front panels and the flap-section as specified.

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4. A bag or container according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the heat-sealing on the side marginal portions of the bag or container is splayed outwardly towards the opening so that the opening is tapered inwardly for a short length along the sealing at the side marginal portions of the bag or container to facilitate the placing of goods therein.

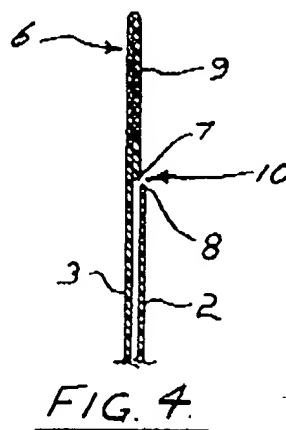
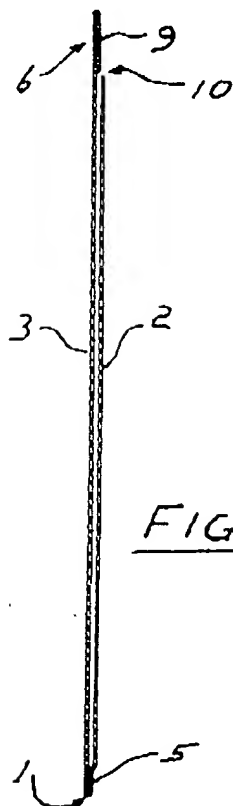
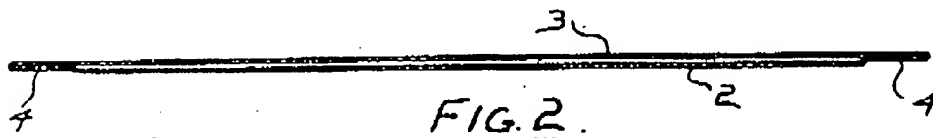
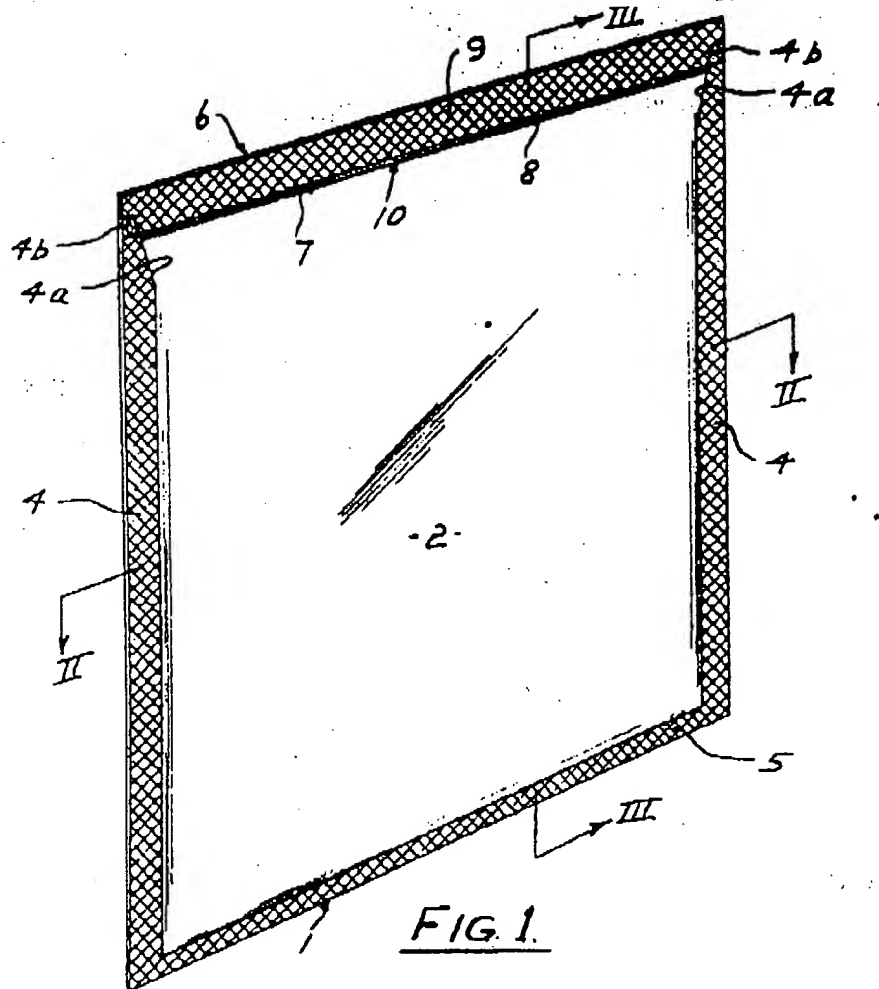
5. A bag or container according to claim 4 wherein the sealing at the side marginal portions is carried beyond the actual opening to ensure a sealing at the ends of the opening and on the outer side edges of the bag or container adjacent to the splaying back portion of the sealing strip on each side thereof.

6. A bag or container which is arranged and constructed substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Peren J. J.

~~F. J.~~ WAKELIN

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BALDWIN, SON & CAREY,



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